

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 3-15, 18-42, and 44-57 have been amended herein. All of the pending claims 1 through 58 are presented below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings in the application. Please enter these claims as amended.

1. (Original) A method for facilitating emergence of a subject from inhaled anesthesia, comprising:
decreasing a concentration of anesthetic agents in blood leaving the lungs and flowing into the brain of the subject;
increasing blood flow through the brain of the subject; and
preventing the subject from inhaling previously exhaled anesthetic agents.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein increasing blood flow comprises:
controlling an amount of carbon dioxide inhaled by the subject.
3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~said~~ controlling comprises causing the subject to inhale air or a gas mixture with a fixed concentration of carbon dioxide.
4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~said~~ controlling comprises causing the subject to inhale ~~said~~ air or ~~said~~ a gas mixture with an above normal amount of carbon dioxide.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein ~~said~~ controlling comprises causing the subject to rebreathe previously exhaled gases.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein ~~said~~ causing comprises adjusting a volume of ~~said~~ the previously exhaled gases.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein ~~said~~ causing comprises adjusting an amount of carbon dioxide in ~~said~~ the previously exhaled gases.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein ~~said~~ adjusting comprises permitting a portion of ~~said~~ the previously exhaled gases to escape a volume from which ~~said~~ causing is to be effected.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein ~~said~~ adjusting comprises removing carbon dioxide from a portion of ~~said~~ the previously exhaled gases.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7, wherein ~~said~~ adjusting comprises controlling a flow rate of fresh gases into a volume from which ~~said~~ causing is to be effected.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein ~~said~~ causing comprises causing the subject to inhale air or a gas mixture which is substantially free of anesthetic agents.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 2, wherein ~~said~~ controlling comprises causing the subject to rebreathe previously exhaled gases.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 12, wherein ~~said~~ preventing comprises removing at least some anesthetic agents from ~~said~~ the previously exhaled ~~air~~ gases.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein ~~said~~ removing comprises removing substantially all anesthetic agents from ~~said~~ the previously exhaled ~~air~~ gases.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 13, wherein ~~said~~ removing comprises filtering ~~said~~ the previously exhaled ~~air~~ gases.

16. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
preventing the subject from inhaling pathogens.

17. (Original) A system for facilitating emergence of a subject from inhaled anesthesia, comprising:
a filter for at least partially removing anesthesia from gases exhaled by the subject; and
a CO₂ level-elevating component for causing the subject to inhale gases including an
above-normal amount of CO₂.

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein ~~said~~ the CO₂
level-elevating component comprises a rebreathing component for causing the subject to inhale
at least previously exhaled gases.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein ~~said~~ the rebreathing
component is configured to cause the subject to inhale at least some previously exhaled gases
that have passed through ~~said~~ the filter.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein ~~said~~ the rebreathing
component is configured to facilitate partial rebreathing by the subject.

21. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein ~~said~~ the rebreathing
component is configured to facilitate total rebreathing by the subject.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein ~~said~~ the rebreathing
component comprises a length of conduit positioned between a Y-~~piece~~ connector of a breathing
circuit and ~~said~~ the filter.

23. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 22, wherein at least a portion of ~~said~~ the length of conduit is volume-adjustable.

24. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein ~~said~~ the rebreathing component comprises a length of conduit including two ends, each of ~~said~~ the two ends communicating with ~~said~~ the filter.

25. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24, wherein at least a portion of ~~said~~ the length of conduit is volume-adjustable.

26. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 18, wherein ~~said~~ the rebreathing component comprises a deadspace volume within a body of ~~said~~ the filter and located on a distal side of a filter element of ~~said~~ the filter from the subject.

27. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein ~~said~~ the deadspace volume is defined at least partially by ~~said~~ the body.

28. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 26, wherein ~~said~~ the deadspace volume is configured to be adjusted.

29. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24, wherein ~~said~~ the rebreathing component comprises:
a shunt line positioned between an inspiratory limb and an expiratory limb of a breathing circuit
along which ~~said~~ the filter is positioned; and
a valve positioned along ~~said~~ the shunt line for controlling a flow of gases therethrough.

30. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 24, wherein ~~said~~ the rebreathing component comprises at least a section of a circle system along which ~~said~~ the filter is positioned.

31. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 30, further comprising:
a valve for selectively directing at least some exhaled gases into or out of at least one of ~~said~~ the rebreathing component and ~~said~~ the filter.

32. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, further comprising:
one of a circle system and a Bain system with which at least ~~said~~ the filter communicates.

33. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 32, further comprising:
a valve for selectively directing at least some exhaled gases from ~~said~~ the circle system or ~~said~~ the Bain system to ~~said~~ the filter or for establishing communication between ~~said~~ the CO₂ level-elevating component and ~~said~~ the circle system or ~~said~~ the Bain system.

34. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein ~~said~~ the rebreathing component comprises an anesthesia breathing circuit with at least one of:
a removable carbon dioxide adsorber; and
a bypass conduit ~~and~~ and a valve associated therewith for causing exhaled gases to bypass ~~a~~ a the carbon dioxide adsorber of ~~said~~ the anesthesia breathing circuit.

35. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 34, wherein ~~said~~ the valve is configured to introduce at least some gases exhaled by the subject into ~~said~~ the filter or to establish communication between ~~said~~ the CO₂ level-elevating component and ~~said~~ the anesthesia breathing circuit.

36. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein ~~said~~ the CO₂ level-elevating component comprises a CO₂ infusion element.

37. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein ~~said~~ the filter is configured to substantially remove anesthesia from ~~said~~ the gases exhaled by the subject.

38. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 37, wherein ~~said~~ the filter is configured to reduce levels of anesthesia that escape into the environment.

39. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein ~~said~~ the filter includes an adsorbent for at least a portion of the inhaled anesthesia.

40. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein ~~said~~ the filter comprises at least one of activated charcoal, crystalline silica, a lipid absorber, and a condensation generating element.

41. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein ~~said~~ the filter does not substantially reduce an amount of at least one of carbon dioxide and oxygen in ~~said~~ the gases exhaled by the subject.

42. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 17, wherein ~~said~~ the filter is further configured to remove pathogens from gases inhaled by the subject.

43. (Original) A method for facilitating emergence of a subject from inhaled anesthesia, comprising:
increasing ventilation of the subject;

causing the subject to inhale gases including at least an atmospheric amount of carbon dioxide;
and
preventing the subject from inhaling previously exhaled anesthetic agents.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 43, wherein ~~said~~ causing comprises controlling an amount of carbon dioxide inhaled by the subject.

45. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 44, wherein ~~said~~ controlling comprises causing the subject to inhale air or a gas mixture with a fixed concentration of carbon dioxide.

46. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 44, wherein ~~said~~ controlling comprises causing the subject to inhale ~~said~~ air or ~~said~~ a gas mixture with an above normal amount of carbon dioxide.

47. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, wherein ~~said~~ controlling comprises causing the subject to rebreathe previously exhaled gases.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47, wherein ~~said~~ causing comprises adjusting a volume of ~~said~~ the previously exhaled gases.

49. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47, wherein ~~said~~ causing comprises adjusting an amount of carbon dioxide in ~~said~~ the previously exhaled gases.

50. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 49, wherein ~~said~~ adjusting comprises permitting a portion of ~~said~~ the previously exhaled gases to escape a volume from which ~~said~~ causing is to be effected.

51. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 49, wherein ~~said~~ adjusting comprises removing carbon dioxide from a portion of ~~said~~ the previously exhaled gases.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 49, wherein ~~said~~ adjusting comprises controlling a flow rate of fresh gases into a volume from which ~~said~~ causing is to be effected.

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46, wherein ~~said~~ causing comprises causing the subject to inhale air or a gas mixture which is substantially free of anesthetic agents.

54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 44, wherein ~~said~~ controlling comprises causing the subject to rebreathe previously exhaled gases.

55. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 54, wherein ~~said~~ preventing comprises removing at least some anesthetic agents from ~~said~~ the previously exhaled ~~air~~ gases.

56. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, wherein ~~said~~ removing comprises removing substantially all anesthetic agents from ~~said~~ the previously exhaled ~~air~~ gases.

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 55, wherein ~~said~~ removing comprises filtering ~~said~~ the previously exhaled ~~air~~ gases.

58. (Original) The method of claim 43, further comprising:
preventing the subject from inhaling pathogens.